

SECRET

U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

Doc-14102

19 February 1954

Biographic Summary

VI/COM/COM 20

Subject: VOSS, Wilhelm

1. Subject has been described as Wilhelm Heinrich VOSS, born 1 July 1896 at Rastatt, Germany (SC, GL, 21 Jan 54, SECRET/Control/U.S. Officials only). He do not find the name Wilhelm Heinrich VOSS in any other report. Subject is sometimes referred to as Fritz Wilhelm VOSS, but usually as Dr. Wilhelm VOSS.
2. During the Nazi regime, subject enjoyed special favor as head of the Central Economic Office in the Ministry for Armaments and War Production, as Director-General of the German Shipping Service, as Managing Director of the Bremer Vulkanwerke, and President of the State Works in Czechoslovakia (he's the credited 16 Mar 43 by Hls, CONFIDENTIAL; 20, Cairo, 1111, 20 Dec 54, CONFIDENTIAL; etc.); as a member of the directors of Reichsmittelvertrieb AG, and manager of Reichswerke A. G. for Rubber and Manufacturing (See HIA HIRL, 23 Jul 44, HIR-4409, CONFIDENTIAL); and as chairman of the Board of Managers of Frager Gesellschaft (Frankfurt, Germany, 16 Jan 43, UNCLASSIFIED). VOSS has received one of his assignments to the U. S. Military Attache at Cairo, including a dramatic story about a personal fight with Hermann GÖRING, protection of VOSS from GÖRING's wrath by KERNER, all of which lead to VOSS's leaving the state works and joining a field unit as Chief of Staff of a German Army unit that was captured by the Americans and turned over to the Russians in Czechoslovakia (Ann, Cairo, 2-23-53, info dated 11 Jul-3-Aug 53, IS-215000, CONFIDENTIAL).
3. Abstracts in our files do not explain what happened to VOSS between his capture in Czechoslovakia at the end of the war and his appearance in Egypt five or six years later. An abstract from a Foreign Service Dispatch from the U.S. Embassy at Rome, dated

SECRET

U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

U. S. ...

Voss, Wilhelm - continued

24 March 1930 gives the following information about subject at the close of this period:

The Chamber of Commerce records show that MANIPOL is administered by the following persons in Milan:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| President: | Wilhelm Voss, 24, German |
| Vice President: | Hans FERRARI, 42, German |
| Councillors: | Gottard JAKL, 49, German |
| | Franco VETRI, 47, Italian |
| | Astolfo PIGATTI, 30, Italian |

See document for discussion of this firm and their relations with Czech Foreign Ministry.

(S, [REDACTED] FY16, 24 Mar 30, SECRET)

4. Since 1930 or 1931 Voss has been attached to the Egyptian Government, being described as a member of the German Military Mission in Egypt (CIA-OO-30203, 25 Feb 32, SECRET, and other reports), as Chief German advisor to the Egyptian Government (CIA-OO-3714, 12 Mar 33, SECRET/control/U.S. Officials Only, and other reports), as Economic advisor to the Egyptian Army (32, Cairo 5710, 10 Apr 33, SECRET, and other reports), as advisor to the Egyptian Government on heavy industry (CIA-OO-3-5731A, 7 Aug 33, CONFIDENTIAL, and other reports) as Chief German Military Advisor in Egypt (CIA-OO-12832, 15 Jun 33, SECRET/control/U.S. Officials Only, and other reports), and as, in reality, a fully-authorized representative of the Federal German Government with a mission of developing political as well as economic liaison between Germany and the Arab world (ibid, and other reports), etc., etc., etc. It was reported in November 1933 that Voss had been removed from his position as Chief of the German Military Mission to Egypt and had been assigned directly to the Undersecretary of State for War as Technical and Economic Advisor, working primarily on war factories and research and development (Amst, Cairo, 2-514-33, 10 Nov 33, CONFIDENTIAL). Voss is reported to have been the first foreign expert contacted by the Egyptian Ministry of War and Marine and the first German expert to arrive in Egypt. Under his direction, these reports state, the plan for calling in foreign experts (mostly German) to replace the British Military Mission to Egypt (abolished in 1927) was drawn up (Amst, Egypt, 2-337-32, 1 Nov 32, ID-1128790, CONFIDENTIAL, and 32, Cairo, 5711, 20 Dec 32, CONFIDENTIAL).

RECEIVED
MAR 24 1934
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

Vidoss, Wilhelm - continued

Another report gives details about موسى's character and history, particularly at account of how he entered the service of the syndics through a certain Hos. MARKIN (Armi, Switzerland, R-354-53, 11 May 53, ID-1174267, S-REFID: 4111.).

3. During this period of service with the Egyptian Government, Wad has been the subject of many Foreign Service despatches, Military Attache reports, etc., which contain much information of interest to an intelligence organization. These reports cannot be covered fully from our index abstracts.

6. Inasmuch as subject is one of a few outstanding traitors who have been released by their Russian captors, and for other reasons, he has been obviously suspect as a probable clandestine agent of some sort or another. Index abstracts in our files point to the following:

2. On 24 July 1953 the Belgian Embassy in Washington presented an Aide-Memoire to the State Department describing subject as a suspicious person. This Aide-Memoire and a lengthy "case for the defense" as made by Vass himself to the U. S. Military Attache in Cairo are given in ARMA B-237-53, info dated 29 Jul-6 Aug 53, ID-111645, ~~SECRET~~. Another report of the Military Attache at Cairo (ARMA, Egypt, B-238-53, ID-111646, info dated 21 Jul-5 Aug 53, CONFIDENTIAL) gives information acquired from Vass in several conversations in July and August 1953. At this period ~~the~~ and his fellows were apparently making great efforts to capture the cars of American representatives in Cairo. He has notes of numerous Military Attache reports and Foreign Service despatches presenting Dr. Wilhelm Buch's views on our subject and another.

2. The German Ambassador at Cairo has reported suspicions of espionage activities by W.H.O. He told Ambassador GASTNEY on 10 April 1953 that he had reason to believe that Dr. [redacted] was identified with some sort of international Nazi-Communist organization, etc. (SD, Cairo, 2110, 10 Apr 53, JCHS). As a result of this report, Egan submitted a report covering German Government reaction to the clandestine flight of ex-General [redacted] from Germany to Egypt just before he was to report on 27 March to serve a prison sentence in Germany. In this report the following information is concerned with subject:

Voss, Wilhelm - continued

... on or about April 7 Herr J. RICK, who headed the recent German Economic Mission to Egypt, went out of his way to tell a HICG official that he had heard that American intelligence authorities believed that Dr. Wilhelm Voss (former chief of the Office of War Management under JPHM and manager of the German Coaling works) presently Economic Advisor to the Egyptian Army, is acting in association with RICK. J. RICK stated that he found it difficult to credit this report that he knew Voss well and that both he and WILLIAM had entertained Voss during the latter's last trip to Germany that he intended to ask Voss point blank when he next came to Germany whether he were associated with RICK or had assisted his flight to Egypt. . . .

(SD, Bonn, #742.5200, 24 Apr 53, JCH:T)

Secretary DILL then reported to them that:

In the light of Mr. CAPP's Despatch No. 2276 of 28 April 1953, it appears possible that Dr. Voss may be more deeply involved in out-of-the-way activities than his friends in the Federal Republic Government had thought. We have undertaken a check of various security files in Washington to see whether any pertinent information can be found regarding Dr. Voss and his associates, and we think it might be desirable for you to initiate similar checks in Germany. In addition we consider you may wish, in your discussion to pass to your British colleagues the information furnished by Ambassador CAPPET from Cairo, not only because of the general British interest in the area, but also because of the appearance of news links (such as MORLEY) to persons connected with the NAUVAIR circle recently arrested by the British.

(SD, Bonn, A-1740, 8 May 53, JCH:T)

The British Government has been concerned over Dr. Voss's influence on the Egyptian government and confirmed reports that the Germans under him were training and leading Egyptian guerrilla warfare groups in Egypt.

(SD, London, #5734, 1 Jun 53, JCH:T)

COPY

WDS, Wilhelm - continued

- c. An abstract in our files indicates that the German Ambassador to Egypt reported in April 1953 that WDS, W. H. ZENY and others were said to be in touch with former SS officers in Syria, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan who were liberated by the Japanese in 1930. This report ends with the comment, "If we don't get busy, we may have here another Operation Gladio". (SD, Cairo, #2276, 28 Apr 53, J:CHS). W. H. ZENY visited WDS in Egypt in June 1953 (SD, Cairo, #2783, 17 Jun 53, SECRET).
- d. A Foreign Service despatch of 2 October 1953 reported that the German Ambassador to Cairo had called on Ambassador JAFFEY to report a "confused story about the activities of Germans in Egypt who are allegedly tied in in some way with one George MARZILLO in Geneva." JAFFEY commented "I gather that the German Ambassador believes he has uncovered a spy ring." Attached to the despatch is a list of names supplied by the German Ambassador, including George MARZILLO and Wilhelm WDS. In a second attachment, giving an expansion of the report from the German Embassy, Baron von WIRBACH, Counselor of the German Embassy, is reported as having told the U.S. Embassy the following about subject:

"... In the course of our conversation, von WIRBACH mentioned that Under Secretary of War HACHAD is an enemy of WDS. Von WIRBACH ended by giving me the latest information on WDS. It appears that WDS had a heart attack while on leave in the Lebanon. According to von WIRBACH, SEC member and Minister of War HACHAD is on a special doctor to bring WDS back here (WDS returned four days ago and has remained in his home ever since). In this connection von WIRBACH commented that it was strange that WDS should be given this special attention in view of the reported intention of the Egyptians to cut him off from control of the German military experts in Egypt (see Embassy Despatch 694 of September 11). Finally, von WIRBACH told me the two latest rumors about WDS. One is that he is trying to find a German firm for which he could act as representative in the Lebanon. The other is that WDS is trying to line up a job as an economic adviser to the Arab League.

(SD, Cairo, #973, 2 Oct 53, CONFIDENTIAL) This and other reports from the German Ambassador at Cairo are interesting in the light of reports that the new German Ambassador was a

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

VOUS, Wilhelm - concluded

report of Dr. VOUS (CIA-C-13916, 12 Mar 53, SECRET/control/
U. S. Officials Only, etc.).

- c. A report of February 1953 stated that Dr. Vlas's desire to bring three employees from the Shoda works to Egypt as his assistants had been objected to by German officers in Egypt on the grounds that anyone working for Shoda must of necessity be Communist, but, the report continues, the assistants were brought to Egypt nevertheless (Armi, Cairo, 2-28-53, 12 Feb 53, 22-113006, UNCLASSIFIED).

SECRET

U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

UNCLASSIFIED COPY